

COVID-19 ANTIGEN TESTING LTC

Antigen tests detect the presence of a specific viral antigen, which suggests a current viral infection. An antigen spurs the immune system to produce antibodies, which attach to antigens. This either helps the body destroy the antigens or makes them harmless. The test analyzes a fluid sample, collected from a nasal or throat swab. Antigen tests are relatively inexpensive and can be used at the point-of-care (POC). The currently authorized devices return results in approximately 15 minutes and are most effective when used to test people with symptoms of COVID-19 within seven days of symptom onset. Please refer to the chart below to interpret antigen testing results.

